

REMARKS

The office action of January 4, 2011, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to O'Malley in view of the patent to Talbot.

Finally, it is noted that claims 6 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and claim 9 is allowed.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 6.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out

by the Examiner.

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In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, both references were discussed at some length in the last filed amendment and those comments are incorporated herein by reference. The following additional comments are provided.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the deflector plates extend downward so as to cover the cardan shafts. The coupling element 67 of O'Malley does not cover the spindle 47 as now recited in claim 1. The Talbot reference provides no teachings that overcome the deficiencies of O'Malley.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is

overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: March 4, 2011